

Message Text

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42

ACTION SS-30

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O R 161550Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2666

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 3583

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VS, VN, SW

SUBJECT: SWEDEN AND THE PRG

REF: (A) SAIGON 10790; (B) SAIGON 10732; (C) STATE 171606;
(D) STOCKHOLM 3548; (E) STOCKHOLM 3380; (F) STOCKHOLM 3022

1. I DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE THAT U.S. INTERESTS WOULD BE SERVED BY AN ADDITIONAL APPROACH TO THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT ON THE GOS'S DECISION TO ENHANCE THE STATUS OF THE PRG INFORMATION OFFICE IN STOCKHOLM AS SUGGESTED BY CHARGE LEHMANN. (REF A) AS I POINTED OUT IN AN EARLIER CABLE (REF E) OUR STRONG OPPOSITION TO MOVES UPGRADING THE PRG REPRESENTATION HERE IS WELL KNOWN TO THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT AND MY POLITICAL COUNSELOR AS RECENTLY AS AUGUST 15 MADE THIS POINT FORCEFULLY TO THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS OF THE MFA. (REF D) THE GOS IS NOW PUBLICLY COMMITTED TO TAKING SOME STEPS TO ENHANCE THE PRG STATUS IN STOCKHOLM AND ANY FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS ON OUR PART WOULD CERTAINLY NOT DETER THE GOVERNMENT FROM THIS COURSE OF ACTION, AND COULD DIMINISH OUR EFFECTIVENESS AT A LATTER DATE IN DISSUADING THE GOS FROM ACTUALLY RECOGNIZING THE PRG. ON THIS LATTER POINT, AS REPORTED IN OUR CABLES, WE HAVE ELICITED STATEMENTS FROM SENIOR MFA OFFICIALS THAT THE GOS DOES NOT RPT NOT INTEND TO RECOGNIZE THE PRG.

2. I BELIEVE WE HAVE GONE AS FAR AS WE CAN GO WITH THE
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GOS ON THIS ISSUE OF ENCHANCED STATUS WITHOUT RAISING

QUESTIONS AS TO UNDUE INTERFERENCE IN SWEDEN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND THUS GIVING THE RADICAL LEFT AN OPPORTUNITY TO STOKES ONCE AGAIN THE FIRES OF ANTI-AMERICANISM WHICH AS I HAVE REPORTED, HAVE BEEN BURNING LOW IN RECENT MONTHS. I THINK IT IMPORTANT THAT WE KEEP IN MIND THAT OUR LEVERAGE HERE IS QUITE LIMITED IN THIS AREA. UNLIKE FELLOW SCANDINAVIANS NORWAY AND DENMARK, SWEDEN IS NOT OUR ALLY, AND THE GOS IS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO ITS RIGHT TO SET THE LINES OF ITS NEUTRAL FOREIGN POLICY. TOO HEAVY HANDED PRESSURE ON THE GOS COULD ONLY LEAD TO A LESSENING OF OUR PRESTIGE AND POWERS OF INFLUENCE HERE.

3. WHILE I SHARE EMBASSY SAIGON'S APPRECIATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PRG ISSUE TO THE USG, I AM ALSO IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEW (REF C) THAT THE RVN SHOULD, OVER THE LONG RUN, "ASSUME LARGER BURDEN OF PRESENTING ITS OWN CASE", AND IN THIS CONNECTION, I REGRET TO SAY, THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR IN BONN MISSED AN OPPORTUNITY TO EFFECTIVELY PRESENT HIS CASE WHEN HE ABORTED HIS VISIT HERE EARLIER THIS WEEK. (REF D)

4. IN THE SLIGHTLY MORE THAN TWO MONTHS I HAVE BEEN HERE I HAVE ASSIDUOUSLY DEVELOPED A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSSON AS WELL AS WITH OTHER SWEDISH LEADERS, A RELATIONSHIP WHICH I BELIEVE WILL STAND US IN GOOD STEAD WHEN IT IS NECESSARY TO USE IT ON AN ISSUE OF MAJOR U.S. INTERESTS. I WOULD NOT WISH TO JEOPARDIZE THAT RELATIONSHIP BY ANOTHER DEMARCHE ON AN ISSUE ON WHICH THE GOS HAS CLEARLY MADE A DEFINITE DECISION. STRAUSS-HUPE

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